

# Keeping Up Our End of the Correspondence



Preserving Women's  
Letters in the Digital Era



March 4, 2020 • 2 PM  
Fant Memorial Library



# Meet Our Panel

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Dr. Suzanne Marrs, Eudora Welty biographer and professor emerita at Millsaps College, has edited 2 collections of Eudora Welty's letters: *Meanwhile There Are Letters: The Correspondence of Eudora Welty and Ross Macdonald*, and *What There Is to Say We Have Already Said: The Correspondence of Eudora Welty and William Maxwell*.

Dr. Bridget Pieschel is a professor emerita at MUW, author of 2 volumes on the history of MUW (*Loyal Daughters: One Hundred Years at Mississippi University for Women, 1884-1984*, and *Golden Days: Reminiscences of Alumnae, Mississippi State College for Women*). Pieschel is also the donor of the Ellard-Murphree-Pilgreen Smith Collection ("Smith Papers" for short).



Angela Stewart is an archivist at the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University. She has served as interim project manager for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, has co-written articles on Margaret Walker for the *Southern Register* and *Mississippi Reading Journal*, and she assists researchers in multiple disciplines with researching topics related to the collections at Margaret Walker Center.



# Schedule of Events

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**2:00**

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**Welcome and Introductions**  
Hillary Richardson

**Panel discussion**  
panelists

**Audience Q&A**  
Elaine Walker & Russell Brandon, Moderators

**Break**  
Coffee and water provided by Sodexo

**3:00**

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**Digitization workshop and demonstration –**  
Mona Vance-Ali, Russell Brandon, Hillary  
Richardson, and Elaine Walker



# Workshop Resources

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## Local help

- Mississippi Library Commission
- Your local academic and public libraries or state library association
- MUW Fant Memorial Library's Martha Jo Mims Digitization and Conservation Lab

## Technology Resources

- Digital Collections Guidelines from USM
- Digitizing Special Formats (Digital Library Federation)
- DSDH Metadata guidelines and templates
- Collection Builder Website Template

## Funding Resources

- National Endowment for the Humanities (or your state's humanities council)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- Mellon Foundation

Need help getting connected?

[deepsouthdh.github.io/](https://deepsouthdh.github.io/)  
[deepsouthdh@gmail.com](mailto:deepsouthdh@gmail.com)



# About Deep South DH

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## Mission

The mission of Deep South DH is to provide a community of support and practice to people in Mississippi and nearby areas for digital skills and projects. Borrowing from the Digital Humanities Research Institute at CUNY, the guiding principles of Deep South DH are openness and accessible pedagogy, with the added emphasis on Southern storytelling. The richness of southern stories is meant to be shared, and digital landscapes – with sharing and support – can help us do that.

## Story

The beginning of Deep South DH started with a collection of letters (The Ellard-Murphree-Pilgreen-Smith Family Collection, or “the Smith Papers”) that was donated to the Beulah Culbertson Archives at Mississippi University for Women in 2018. This collection documents the lives of a modestly privileged Mississippi family from Pittsboro in the 20th century. Through reading, digitizing, and sharing the stories and history in the letters, we have realized there are great opportunities for sharing the stories in other southern collections.



# The Smith Papers

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The “Smith Family Papers” collection includes letters, diaries, and other 20th century records among family members and friends, with most letters from members of the Smith Family—Pauline and Sam H. and their children, Bernice, Christine, Martha, and Sam E (or “Sonny Boy.”)—for most of the 20th century.

The geographic center of the collection is Pittsboro (or Calhoun County) Mississippi, where the family maintained their home since 1914, and where Pauline wrote most of her letters. Several letters from Jackson, MS are from Sam H. Smith, who was a state senator between 1932 and 1936. Letters to and from Columbus, MS are from Bernice, Christine and Martha, who each attended and graduated from the Mississippi State College for Women between 1931 and 1938. As Pauline and Sam H. grow older and continue to write from Mississippi, their children move around the country, engage in military appointments around the world, and continue to write home about the everyday events in their lives. The letters reflect this.





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